



# India Rejects OIC's Proposal

## Why in News

Recently, the Ministry of External Affairs rejected the [Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's \(OIC\)](#) proposal to assist a dialogue between India and Pakistan.

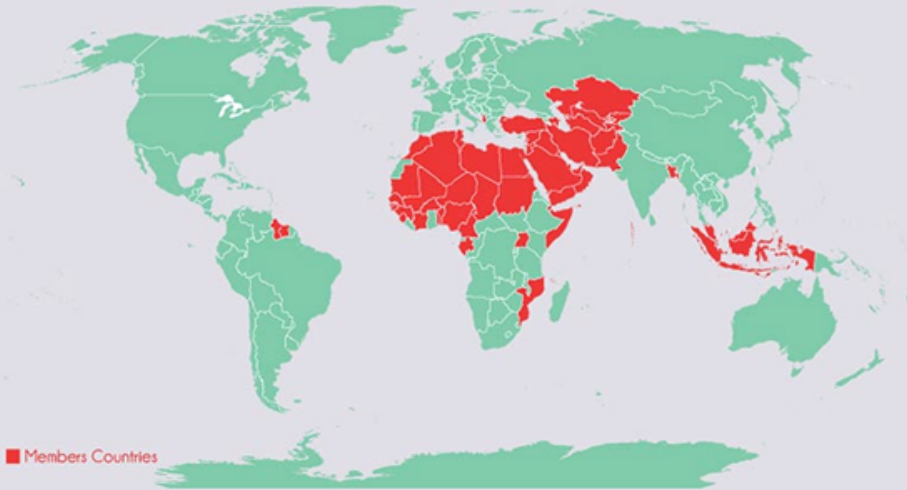
- Earlier in December 2020, [India also rejected the criticism of its Kashmir policy by the OIC.](#)

## Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

- It is the **second largest intergovernmental organization** after the [United Nations](#) (UN) with a membership of 57 states.
- It is the **collective voice of the Muslim world**. It endeavors to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.
  - **India is not a member** of the OIC.
- It was **established** upon a decision of the **historical summit which took place in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco in September 1969.**
- **Headquarters:** Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.



# What is OIC?



OIC- Organization of the Islamic Cooperation

It was founded in **1969**

First OIC Charter Adopted in **1972**



Number of Member Countries

**57**

Founding Members **30**

Key Bodies of OIC:

- Council of Foreign Ministers
- General Secretariat
- Islamic Summit
- Al-Quds Committee

## Key Points

### ▪ OIC's Stand:

- Offered to **arrange a meeting between India and Pakistan** and proposed to send a delegation to Jammu & Kashmir in line with resolutions of the OIC council of foreign ministers.

- Pakistan has **repeatedly sought to raise the Kashmir issue at the OIC** against the backdrop of **India's dramatically improved relations with several key players in West Asia** and in the Islamic organisation, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Indonesia and Bangladesh.

### ▪ India's Response:

- The OIC **should be watchful that their platform is not subverted by "vested interests" such as Pakistan to interfere in internal affairs of India** or for anti-India propaganda through biased and one-sided resolutions.

## India & OIC

#### ▪ India's relationship with OIC as an organisation:

- At the 45<sup>th</sup> session of the Foreign Ministers' Summit in 2018, **Bangladesh, the host, suggested that India, where more than 10% of the world's Muslims live,** should be given Observer status, but Pakistan opposed the proposal.
- In **2019, India made its maiden appearance** at the [OIC Foreign Ministers' meeting](#), as a "guest of honour".
  - This **first-time invitation was seen as a diplomatic victory for India**, especially at a time of heightened tensions with Pakistan following the Pulwama attack.

#### ▪ Criticism of India's Policies by OIC:

- It has been **generally supportive of Pakistan's stand on Kashmir**, and has issued statements criticising the alleged Indian "atrocities" in the state/Union Territory.
  - In 2018, the OIC General Secretariat had "**expressed strong condemnation of the killing of innocent Kashmiris by Indian forces** in Indian-occupied Kashmir".
  - It described the "**direct shooting at demonstrators**" as a "**terrorist act**", and "called upon the international community to play its role in order to reach a just and lasting solution to the conflict in Kashmir".
- OIC has **criticised the Government of India over the [Citizenship \(Amendment\) Act, 2019](#)**, and the **[Babri Masjid verdict](#)** of the **[Supreme Court](#)**.
- OIC has also criticised the Indian government for what it called "**[growing Islamophobia](#)**" in India.

#### ▪ India's Response:

- India has always **maintained that OIC has no locus standi in matters strictly internal to India** including that of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir which is an integral and inalienable part of India.

#### ▪ India's relationship with OIC member countries:

- Individually, India has **good relations with almost all member nations**.
- Ties with the **[UAE](#)** and **[Saudi Arabia](#)**, especially, have improved significantly in recent years.
  - The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi (UAE) was a special chief guest at the 68<sup>th</sup> **[Republic Day](#)** celebrations in 2017.
- The OIC includes two of India's close neighbours, **Bangladesh and Maldives**.
  - Indian diplomats say **both countries privately admit that they do not want to complicate their bilateral ties with India** on Kashmir.

[Source: TH](#)